THE ZOONYM “DOG” IN IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN THE BULGARIAN, GREEK, RUSSIAN AND SERBIAN LANGUAGES

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Abstract
The fundamental characteristics of our beloved four-legged friends absolutely justifiably keep an eminent position in the phraseological vocabulary and the spiritual wealth of all the natural languages. The fruitful incarnations of the main representatives of the domestic animal kingdom, as are intertemporally and interlocally reflected by various artistic inspirations and remarkable literature works function as an indisputable witness of admirable psycho-spiritual interaction, as a self-evident truth of the undisturbed relationship between the human species and the adorable animals.

The present paper harmonized with the aspects of the comparative linguistics aims at the semantic analysis of the phraseologisms concerning the zoonym “dog” as thematic component. In the introductory part we perform a conceptual determination of the multi-word expressions and their typical classification according to solid criteria. Through a detailed juxtaposition of original idioms related to the selected stereotype expressions in contemporary Greek and three modern Slavic languages, namely Bulgarian, Russian, and Serbian we attempt to access their semantic nuances and to identify their crucial similarities and basic differences. So for the unhindered achievement of the set goals we use reliable linguistic material from up-to-date, lexicographic sources (general, phraseological, monolingual, bilingual dictionaries) and upgraded electronic corpora of authentic texts. The conducted four language approach confirms the expected dominant negative connotation of phraseologisms and additionally proves their wide creation based on specific – real and absurd – irrational motives.

Key-words: zoonym, Bulgarian, Greek, Russian, Serbian

Résumé
Les caractéristiques fondamentales de nos cher amis à quatre pattes leur assurent absolument, de manière justifiée une position privilégiée dans le vocabulaire phraséologique et dans la richesse spirituelle de toutes les langues naturelles. De nombreuses incarnations de principaux représentants du règne animal domestique, telles que reflétées de manière inter-temporelle et inter-locale par diverses inspirations artistiques et œuvres littéraires remarquables, fonctionnent comme témoin incontestable de l’interaction psycho-spirituelle admirable, comme une vérité évidente de la relation inaltérée entre l’espèce humaine et ces adorables animaux.

Cet article, harmonisé aux aspects de la linguistique comparative, vise l’analyse sémantique phraséologique relative au zoynyme « chien » en tant que composante thématique. Dans la partie introductive on va réaliser une détermination conceptuelle des expressions formées de plusieurs mots et de leur classification typique sur des critères solides. Par une juxtaposition détaillée des idiomes originaux liés aux expressions stéréotypes choisies du grec contemporain et des autres trois langues slaves modernes, à savoir le bulgare, le russe et le serbe, on va essayer d’accéder à
leurs nuances sémantiques et d’identifier les similarités fondamentales et les différences de base. Par conséquent, pour réaliser librement les objectifs fixés, on va utiliser les matériaux linguistiques des sources lexicographiques actualisées (dictionnaires généraux, phrasisologiques, monolingues, bilinques) et des corpus électroniques modernisés des textes authentiques. L’approche en quatre langues confirme la connotation dominante négative du phrasisologisme et, en outre, montre la large création sur base des motifs spécifiques – réels et absurdes – irrationnels.

Mots-clés: zoonyme, bulgare, grec, russe, serbe

1. Introductory remarks
Phraseologisms are characterized as the stereotypical phrases or the specific expressions used in any language code whose basic features are:
- multiwordness: consisting of two or more lexemes without forming a full sentence;
- semantic-syntactic stability: the combination of those words is harmonized with the conceptual capability of the interlocutors;
- idiomaticity: the original meaning is not based on the syntactic parameters and the semantic constituents.

Therefore it is evident that in spite of the excellent knowing of grammar rules or the rich vocabulary the speaker cannot apply the multi-word expressions with absolute competence due to their semantic opacity. In addition he may not be aware of the acceptability identity or the conventionality framework concerning their particular circumstances of appropriate use.

Since the phraseological sequences seem to be lexicalized, reproductible units, they should cover a wide range of lingual phenomena. The common denominators of so-called “idiosyncratic interpretations that cross word boundaries (or spaces)” are the close or the loose connection between two or more words, as well as the social status, as those established manifestations are registered in the collective memory. Swinney & Cutler claim that the ambiguity nature of the consolidated expressions is presented through the grammatically correct forms and their literal meaning caused by a traditional syntactic and semantic analysis.

2 “We think of a locution or manner of speaking as idiomatic if it is assigned an interpretation by the speech community but if somebody who merely knew the grammar and the vocabulary of the language could not, by virtue of that knowledge alone, know (i) how to say it, or (ii) what it means, or (iii) whether it is a conventional thing to say. Put differently, an idiomatic expression or construction is something a language user could fail to know while knowing everything else in the language.” (Fillmore et al., 1988:504)
3 Sag et al., 2002:2.
4 “However, most idioms also have the characteristic of ambiguity. That is, grammatical (well formed) idioms, such as “kick the bucket” have an acceptable literal reading for the word string which is derivable by traditional syntactic semantic analysis as well as an idiomatic reading which cannot be derived from such analysis. The problem is thus one of developing a comprehension model for dealing with phrases which are simultaneously amenable and non-amenable to traditional compositional analysis.” (Swinney & Cutler, 1979:524)
2. Classification indicators of idiomatic phrases

For an unhindered approach to the crucial problem concerning the exact identification of the set phrases some basic criteria have been set:

a. Conventionality

The conventional nuance of the phrasemes is justified by their unpredictable meaning, providing that the separated display of every structural component has its independent functionality.\(^5\)

b. Lexico-grammatical fixedness

The lexico-grammatical fixedness reflects the lexicalized, inflexible consolidation of the idioms\(^6\), whereas it meets certain inviolable conditions:

1. category transformation: the lexical classification of the component parts is impossible:
   
   I’ll drop you a line. – send a message
   * I’ll drop you a linear.

2. deletion: there is not any erasable part:
   
   The ball is in your court – it is up to you to make the next step.
   * The ball is in court.

3. permutation: the moving of a term in a multi-word expression is impossible:
   
   It is in the ballpark. – it is within an acceptable or similar range.
   * The ballpark is in it.

4. substitutability: a synonym, hyperonym, hyponym or co-hyponym cannot replace any component of the phraseologism:
   
   It’s my cup of tea – it’s my choice.
   * It’s my cup of coffee.

5. updating: it is difficult to add a demonstrative or definite qualifier:
   
   I’m going back to the drawing board. – cease participating in a useless activity
   * I’m going back to his drawing board.

c. Multilexicality

The multi-word expressions consist of at least two lexemes, that means:

a multi-word expression = autosemantic + syssemantic

(i) the autosemantic elements are autonomous meaningful units (nouns, adjectives, numerals, verbs, adverbs):

   be tied up – be busy

(ii) the syssemantic elements are words that fulfill the function of grammatical connections and have restricted meaning (pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions):

   who knows – I don’t have any idea

d. Non-analyzability

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\(^5\) Nayak, Gibbs, 1990: 317 do not combine the choice of a consolidated phrase with arbitrary conventions in a contextual use.

\(^6\) Fraser, 1970:39 has proposed the seven-parted Frozenness Hierarchy that indicates the way in which the consolidated expressions allow the change, the paradigmatic replacement, the addition or the removal of elements: L₆ - unrestricted; L₅ - reconstitution of the expression through another structure organization (nominalization); L₄ - extraction of a component in an intrasentential position (passivization); L₃ - permutation of two successive components (moving the indirect object); L₂ - insertion of a component (introduction of an adverbial qualifier); L₁ - adjunction of a non-consolidated term in a multi-word expression (conversion into gerund); L₀ - completely frozen. On that subject Mejri, 2003: 28) considers that a sequence shows a higher degree of consolidation as regards the other one, when the number of the syntactically consolidated elements is superior.
The participation percentage of the structural components in an idiomatic phrase whose conceptual framework is clear to us contributes to its essential identification. If through a detailed analysis the role of the individual elements is not distinct, it is about a consolidated expression:

*be on the ball* – to have qualities that are necessary for success.

e. Semantic non-compositionality

The semantic character of the multi-word expression is not accounted for a combinatory result of its components. The non-compositionality pertains to all or some of the conceptually diverging parameters:

*to come around* – to change opinion.

*to beat* a dead horse - to waste time for an already unsuccessful attempt.

f. Semantic opacity

The mythical events, the ecclesiastical history, and the literary tradition of every nation offer rich material about crystallized habits, but also serve as a solid basis for the formation of opaque expressions:

*to run/ ride roughshod over somebody* - to treat harshly, to tyrannize

(In the 17th century a “rough-shod” horse had its shoes attached with protruding nail heads in order to get a better grip on slippery roads).

*to leave someone in the lurch* - to leave in a jam, in a difficult position

(The lurch comes from an old French backgammon-style game called *lourche*, then indicating the situation of beating the opponent by a huge score).

g. Single-word paraphrasability

In the paradigmatic axis the consolidated expressions replace equally a single word as far as the functional and the semantic level are concerned. Indeed, Ibrahim emphasizes that there is no group of words or any established syntactic structure that has not its morphologically non-consolidated equivalent:

*to keep an eye on* – to watch

*to put a cork in it* = to *shut your hole* = to *zip it* – to be quiet

h. Syntactic irregularity

The strict keeping of the grammatical-syntactic rules is not a capital requirement for considering an expression as a multi-word one:

*long time no see* – haven’t seen for a long time

*by and large* – mostly, generally

i. Translatability

Seeing how the phrasemes are presented as authentic language creations of every nation, it is not possible to translate them word by word into another language. The mentioned ascertainment is interwoven with the partially synthetic aspects of the standard idioms and the multidimensional, metaphorical knowledge the individuals show in regard to the corresponding intellectual sectors.

Gibbs et al. argue that at one time the multi-word expressions had figurative meaning, but gradually they lost it and nowadays in people’s vocabulary they are

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7 Gross, 1988 a: 10.
8 Ibrahim, 2001: 93.
9 Nayak, Gibbs, 1990: 328.
10 Gibbs et al., 1997 :142.
considered to be lexical items. Kövecses & Szabó\textsuperscript{11} highlight that the main core of the majority of the consolidated expressions is inseparably integrated in the conceptual whole.

3. Types of multi-word expressions

In view of the distinct feature of the semantic non-compositionality the complex lexical units are principally divided into: (a) lexicalized expressions; (b) institutionalized expressions, while on the basis of their substitutability there are: (c) fixed expressions; (d) semi-fixed expressions; (e) syntactically flexible expressions.

a. Lexicalized expressions

The lexicalized expressions comply with three basic conditions: (i) elementary non-composability; (ii) specific syntactical structure; (iii) peculiar semantic function:

to spill the beans – to give away a secret or a surprise

b. Institutionalized (conventionalized) expressions

Notwithstanding the manifested syntactical and semantic composability, the institutionalized (or conventionalized) expressions are characterized by such a great frequency that prevents the use of synonyms:
salt and pepper – a black and white police car // interracial

c. Fixed expressions

Fixed expressions are fully lexicalized and additionally, due to their semantic, syntactic and morphological rigidity can neither be variated morpho-syntactically nor modified internally:

in short – briefly
by and large – generally
every which way – in many different directions

Their possible variations are:

(i) morphological, when they indicate person, number, tense:
to keep/ kept an eye out for – to maintain/ maintained awareness of

(ii) lexical either when a position of the expression is replaced by a reflexive pronoun or when a word is substituted by another word:
be full of myself/ themselves – be/ they are self-centered.
to sweep under the rug/ the carpet – to hide something embarrassing

d. Semi-fixed expressions

In semi-fixed expressions the word order, the lexical as well as the syntactic composition are strictly invariable. Nevertheless any external elements cannot be interposed between their primary components:
to rain cats and dogs – to rain very heavily

* to rain the cats and the dogs

e. Syntactically flexible expressions

This kind of expressions includes a wide range of syntactic variability, since the connectivity of their parts may be disrupted. They occur in the form of:

\textsuperscript{11} “So far, we have shown that the meaning of many idioms (but not that of all idioms, such as kick the bucket) is not independent of the domains of knowledge that make up a large part of our conceptual system and that conceptual metaphors provide the link between the special idiomatic meaning and the conceptual knowledge. What we have to show now is that (1) the conceptual metaphors really exist, that is, they have psychological validity, and (2) that many of the idioms we have seen so far are not isolated linguistic expressions, but come from a source domain used to understand and talk about a target domain.” (Kövecses & Szabó, 1996: 333).
(i) decomposable idioms that are likely to be syntactically flexible to some degree:

- to let the cat out of the bag – to reveal a secret by accident

(ii) verb-particle constructions that consist of a verb and one or more particles may be semantically idiosyncratic or compositional:

- to brush up on – to improve knowledge or ability
- to break up – to destroy

(iii) light verbs that have little semantic content and form a predicate with an additional complement, most often a noun:\footnote{Jespersen, 1965:117; Grimshaw & Mester, 1988: 205-232.}

- to make a mistake – to commit an error.

Though the flexible expressions are idiosyncratic they have to be distinguished from the idioms, given that “the noun is used in a normal sense, and the verb meaning appears to be bleached, rather than idiomatic.”\footnote{Sag et al., 2002: 7.}

4. The use of phraseological units

The dynamic presence of multi-word expressions in both oral and written speech is harmonized with the fact that they spontaneously portray usable objects, everyday activities, various emotional situations. Understandably most of the nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs which participate in the formation of those complex phrasemes have a dominant position in the basic vocabulary.

Moreover with their stylistic variation (formal or informal) the consolidated expressions describe the emotional fluctuations of speakers as at literal, as at metaphorical level. Therefore their appearance is remarkably frequent in scientific articles, advertising spots, literary inspirations, school handbooks\footnote{Fleischer, 1982: 228; Gläser, 1998:125.}, but also in special vocabularies (law, medicine, army, sports).

5. Phrasemes with zoonyms as lexical components

The intertemporal presence of representatives from the animal kingdom and as well their undeniable identity as our faithful co-travellers justify the dynamic existence of symbolic meanings and permeated human (positive, mostly negative) features or established anthropocentric stereotypes\footnote{“The stereotypes related to animals are developed by the misuse of language and the animal categories that are evaluated in accordance with their direct utility or usefulness to people.” (Bertoša, 1999: 68).}

So the animals completely unfairly receive specific features through which a redemptive interpretation of delinquent human behavior is sought. On the one hand it occurs because of expanded cultural roots (Aesopian fables) and on the other hand man as reference point tries to stress his intellectual and psychosomatic superiority.

In the phraseologisms formed by zoonyms Vidović–Bolt (2007, p. 417) detects double metaphoricity: as an infallible boomerang all the qualities with which people (transmitters) describe the animals (receivers) reappear between the descriptive characteristics of the former.

Finally with respect to their operative motives the same author notices\footnote{Vidović – Bolt, 2007:418.}:

(a) the concrete motives are based on experiences from the coexistence of human beings and animals;
(b) the associative motives recall the behavior of animals in the circumstances in which the set phrase expresses or they reflect a thorough understanding of their world;

(c) the non-logical or abstract motives do not have a logical explanation;
(d) the non-real motives are hardly feasible;
(e) the biblical motives are connected with important events of the Bible;
(f) the national-cultural motives are unique to each nation and culture.

6. Contrastive analysis of phraseological units

The idealized relationship between the rational being and his loyal quadruped interlingually operates as an inexhaustible source for imaginative phraseologisms.

A total of two hundred and fifty nine (259) selected idioms, namely 81 Bulgarian, 63 Greek, 65 Russian and 50 Serbian constitute the text corpus of this paper. In order to achieve their constructive study we accompany the multi-word expressions by appropriate explanatory indications: B – Bulgarian; G – Greek; R – Russian; S – Serbian; C – connotation; ~ literal translation.

Their wide semantic spectrum is divided into two autonomous categories which deal with the fundamental elements that directly either originate or are related to the positive beingness and the negative influence of dogs’ presence in human life:

6.1. Positive sign of the component “dog” in idiomatic expressions

6.1.1.

B1: верен като куче ~ as faithful as a dog
B2: вярно куче на някого ~ a dog that is faithful to someone
B3: като куче на синджир ~ like a dog on a chain
G1: πιστός σαν σκύλος ~ as faithful as a dog
G2: τον ακολουθεί σαν το σκυλί ~ she follows him like a dog
G3: πάρε άνθρωπο από σπίτι και σκυλί από μαντρί ~ take a man from a house and a dog from a corral
R1: при верном псе и сторож спит ~ when the dog is faithful even the guard sleeps
R2: живой пес (живая собака) лучше мертвого льва ~ a live dog is better than a dead lion
R3: без собаки зайца не поймаешь ~ without a dog you won’t catch any rabbit
R4: собака друг, а лошадь ворог ~ the dog is friend and the horse is enemy
R5: полон двор собачат ~ the yard is full of puppies
S1: послушан као пас ~ as obedient as a dog
S2: веран као пас ~ as faithful as a dog
C: loyalty, faithfulness, obedience

6.1.2.

B: имам кучешка душа ~ I have a canine soul
G: ἔχω σκυλίσιο θάρρος ~ I have canine bravery
R: оторви собаке хвост ~ tear the dog’s tail off
C: courage, determination

6.1.3.

G: παλιός σκύλος, καλός φύλακας ~ old dog, good guard
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6.1.4. 
B1: знаят ме и кучетата ~ even the dogs know me
B2: знаят ме и късите кучета ~ even the tailless dogs know me
B3: кучетата на село ме знаят ~ the dogs in the village know me
R1: каждая (всякая) собака знает ~ every dog knows
R2: об этом уже и собаки лают ~ even the dogs already bark about it
C: a popular man

6.1.5. 
G1: δουλεύει σαν το σκυλί ~ he works like a dog
G2: είναι σκυλί (σκύλος) στη δουλειά του ~ he is a dog in his work
G3: είναι σκυλί μονάχο ~ he is a lonely dog
S: радити као пас ~ to work like a dog
C: an active man, a hard-working person

6.2. Canine phraseologisms with negative nuances
6.2.1. 
B1: валят като на бясно куче камъне ~ they throw stones at an angry dog
B2: мразя като червиво куче ~ to hate like a maggoty dog
G1: γίνομαι σκύλος ~ become a dog
G2: κάνει σαν τον σκύλο ~ he behaves like a dog
G3: γαβγίζει σαν το σκύλο ~ he barks like a dog
G4: κάνει σαν λυσσασμένο σκύλο ~ he acts like a rabid dog
R1: не будите спящую собаку ~ don’t wake the sleeping dog up
R2: бешеная собака и хозяина кусает ~ the mad dog bite even the owner
S1: бесан као пас у жежељу ~ he is as angry as a dog at the pole
S2: љут као пас (псето) ~ as angry as a dog
S3: нервозан као пас ~ as nervous as a dog
C: someone becomes dangerous when he gets angry

6.2.2. 
B: гладен като куче ~ as hungry as a dog
G: σαν πεινασμένο σκυλί ~ like a hungry dog
R1: набрасываться как голодная собачка ~ to pounce like a hungry dog
R2: голодный как собака ~ as hungry as a dog
S: гладан као пас ~ hungry like a dog
C: great hunger

6.2.3. 
B: свършил я като кучето с опашката си ~ I finished like a dog with its tail
B2: вършвам работата я като кучето на нивата ~ I do my works in the fields like a dog
B3: прокопсал съм като бясно куче ~ I have succeeded like a mad dog
G: ейнай тεμπελόσκυλο ~ he is a lazy dog
R1: чёрных собак набело перемывать ~ to reclean the black dogs completely
R2: стеречь собак ~ to guard the dogs
R3: кнуты вьёт да собак бьёт ~ he weaves the whips and beats the dogs

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R4: гонить собак ~ to pursue dogs  
R5: дразнить собак ~ to tease dogs  
R6: собакам сено (траву) косить (давать) ~ to mow (to give) hay (grass) to the dogs  
R7: собакам хвосты крутить ~ to twist the tails of the dogs  
R8: на собаках шерсть бить ~ to beat the fur on the dogs  
S: лень как пас ~ as lazy as a dog  
C: negligent behavior, laziness  

6.2.4.  
B: куче което лае не хапе ~ the dog that barks doesn’t bite  
G: σκυλί που γαβγίζει, δε δαγκώνει ~ the dog that barks doesn’t bite  
R: собака которая лает редко кусает ~ the dog that barks doesn’t bite  
S: пас који (много) лаје не уједа (тризе) ~ the dog that barks (a lot) doesn’t bite  
S2: не би надлажало ни девет (сто) паса ~ even nine (a hundred) dogs wouldn’t bark  
C: he who threatens by words is not considered to be dangerous  

6.2.5.  
B: зъл като куче (пес) ~ bad like a dog  
G1: κακό σκυλί ψόφο δεν έχει ~ a bad dog doesn’t die  
G2: του κακού σκυλιού το αυτί είναι πάντα ματωμένο ~ the ear of a bad dog is always bloody  
R: измъча се като куче ~ to be tortured like a dog  
B2: страдам (гладувам) като куче ~ to suffer (to starve) like a dog  
B3: уморен като куче ~ tired like a dog  
G: είμαι κουρασμένος σαν σκυλί ~ be as tired as a dog  
R: устать, как собака ~ to get tired like a dog  
S1: мучити се као пас ~ be tortured like a dog  
S2: нарадити се као пас ~ to work extremely hard like a dog  
S3: уморан као пас (псето) ~ tired as a dog (cur)  
C: a man who is exhausted by work  

6.2.6.  
B1: измъча се като куче ~ to be tortured like a dog  
B2: страдам (гладувам) като куче ~ to suffer (to starve) like a dog  
B3: уморен като куче ~ tired like a dog  
G: είμαι κουρασμένος σαν σκυλί ~ be as tired as a dog  
R: устать, как собака ~ to get tired like a dog  
S1: мучити се као пас ~ be tortured like a dog  
S2: нарадити се као пас ~ to work extremely hard like a dog  
S3: уморан као пас (псето) ~ tired as a dog (cur)  
C: a man who is exhausted by work  

6.2.7.  
B1: живея като куче под стряха ~ to live in fear like a dog  
B2: издъхвам (пуквам) като куче ~ to exhale (pop off) like a dog  
B3: и кучетата вар не лижат (ядат) някъде ~ even the dogs don’t lick (eat) the lime anywhere  
B4: краставо куче ~ a mangy dog  
B5: върви ми като на бясно куче тояги ~ it goes to me like a stick on a mad dog  
B6: заборчиял съм и на кучетата ~ I was indebted even to dogs  
G1: ζει σαν το σκύλο ~ he lives like a dog  
G2: περνάει σκυλίσια ζωή ~ he spends a canine lifetime

R1: голодной собаки выманить нечем ~ to lure a hungry dog with something
R2: собаки посуду моют ~ the dogs wash the dishes
R3: была у собаки хата ~ the dog had a hut
R4: надражниться собак ~ to anger the dogs
R5: лучше смерть, чем собачья жизнь ~ death is better than a dog’s life
S: живети как пас ~ to live like a dog
C: poverty, helplessness, unhappy life
6.2.8.
B1: заывают се като куче ~ to snap like a dog
B2: ядем като кучета [през плет] ~ to quarrel like dogs [over the fence]
B3: като куче и котка ~ like dog and cat
B4: живеем (соваряме се) като куче ~ we live (live in conspiracy) like a dog
B5: обичаме се като куче и котка ~ we love each other like dog and cat
B6: обичам като куче тояга ~ to like the stick as a dog does
G1: σαν το σκύλο με τη γάτα ~ like the dog and the cat
G2: τρώγονται σαν τα σκυλιά ~ they quarrel like dogs
R: собака собакой ~ a dog towards a dog
S: живети (глядати се, мрзети, волети се, слагати се) као пас и мачка ~ to live (to look at each other, to hate, to love each other, to agree) like dog and cat
C: a relationship that is characterized by continuous and successive quarrels
6.2.9.
B1: куче влачи, дирая няма ~ the dog drags, there are no tracks
B2: мене кучета ми яли ~ my dogs ate me
G: εγώ το λέω στο σκύλο μου και εκείνος στην ουρά του ~ I say it to my dog and he to his tail
R1: хотя собаки ешь ~ you eat even the dog
R2: нужен как собаке пятая нога ~ it is necessary like a fifth leg for a dog
S: марити као пас за пету ногу ~ to care like a dog about a fifth leg
C: a person who has no particular interest, an unconcerned man
6.2.10.
B1: смеят ми се и кучетата ~ even the dogs laugh at me
B2: разлайвам кучетата ~ to provoke the dogs into barking loudly
G: γίνομαι ρεζίλι των σκυλιών ~ to become the laughingstock of the dogs
R: спустить собак на кого ~ to pull the dogs on somebody
C: a man who becomes the subject of ridicule and sharp attacks
6.2.11.
B: храни куче да те лае ~ feed the dog to bark at you
G: σαν το αχάριστο σκύλι ~ like the ungrateful dog
R: сердце волка, лёгкие собаки ~ heart of wolf, lungs of dog
C: a person who doesn’t feel or show gratitude
6.2.12.
B: когато бил вълка куче ~ when the dog was wolf
G1: σκύλο πλένεις, σκύλο λούζεις, σκυλίσια πάντα μυρίζεις ~ either you wash or bathe a dog you always smell like a dog
G2: αν κάνει ο σκύλος μάντρα θα κάνει και αυτός χωρί ~ if the dog makes a paddock, he will build a village.
Р1: с собаками не сыщешь — you will not find with the dogs
Р2: его теперь собаками не найдешь — now you will not find him with the dogs

Р3: кормить собак оставаться холодным — to feed dogs, to remain unmarried

C: an unrealizable action, a wasted effort
6.2.13.

В: кучетата лаят, керванът си върви — the dogs bark, the caravan moves on
Г: τα σκυλιά γαβγίζουν, αλλά το καραβάνι προχωρά — the dogs bark, but the caravan moves on

Р1: собака лает, ветер носит — the dog barks, the wind carries
Р2: собака лает, а караван идёт — the dog barks and the caravan goes on
Р3: собака лает, а бары едут — the dog barks and the gentlemen travel
Р4: собака лает, а владыка едет — the dog barks and the bishop travels
Р5: собака лает, а волк бродит — the dog barks and the wolf wanders
Р6: собака лает, а обоз знак идёт да идёт — the dog barks and the wagon — train, you know that goes and goes
Р7: иди прямо, а собака пусть лает — go straight and let the dogs bark
Р8: собака лает от собаки слышит — the dog barks, he is heard by the dog
Р9: пускай собаки грызут — let the dogs bite
Р10: добрый пес на ветер не лает — the good dog doesn’t bark at the wind
Р11: ничего баять, што собаки лают — nothing to say that the dogs bark

S: пас лаје, караван пролази — the dog barks, the caravan goes on

C: it is useful to ignore unjustified criticism
6.2.14.

В: евтиното месо и кучетата не го ядат — even the dogs don’t eat the cheap meat
Г: το φτηνό κρέας το τρώνε οι σκύλοι — the dogs eat the cheap meat

Р: дешевое мясо собаки не едят — the dogs don’t eat the cheap meat
S: јефтино месо ни пси не једу — neither the dogs eat the cheap meat

C: the cheap items are thrown away
6.2.16.

B: старо куче нови работи не учи — the old dog doesn’t learn new tricks
G: το γέρικο σκυλί δε μαθαίνει νέα κόλπα — the old dog doesn’t learn new tricks

Р1: старую собаку новым трюкам (фокусам) не научишь — you don’t teach new tricks (gimmicks) to an old dog
Р2: старого пса к цепи не приучишь — you don’t accustom the old dog to the chain

S: старог пса не можеш научiti новим триковима — you can’t teach an old dog new tricks

C: it is impossible to change people’s habits, traits or mindset
6.2.17.
B: квичи како кучка ~ she squeals like a bitch
G: ουρλιάζουν σαν τα σκυλιά ~ they howl like dogs
R: визжит как сучка ~ she squeals like a bitch
S: вришти као кучка ~ she squeals like a bitch
C: an indication of impending danger or unspeakable joy

6.2.18.
B: умилиявам се като куче ~ fawn like a dog
G1: κολλήσανε σαν τα σκυλιά ~ they were stuck like dogs
G2: μια η σκύλα, κοπάδι τα σκυλιά ~ one is the bitch, there is a herd of dogs
R: трахается как сучка ~ she has sexual intercourses like a bitch
S1: заљубљен као пас ~ he is in love like a dog
S2: јебе се као кучка ~ she makes love so intensively and passionately like a bitch
C: to present excessive sexual tensions, to be in an extremely playful mood

6.2.19.
B: умирам като куче ~ to die like a dog
G1: πέθανε (ψόφησε) σαν το σκύλο ~ he died like a dog
G2: πήγε σαν το σκύλι στο αμπέλι ~ he went like a dog in the vineyard
G3: πάει σαν το κουτάβι ~ he goes like a puppy
S: умрети (цркнути) као пас [uz tarabu] ~ to die like a dog [with the pound]
C: someone died wronged or alone

6.2.20.
G: παιδιά, σκυλιά δεν έχει ~ he has neither children nor dogs
R: ни одна собака не брешет ~ neither a dog barks
S1: нема ни пса ~ he has no dog
S2: ни бесан пас ~ neither a mad dog
S3: бити без кучета и мачета ~ to be without dogs and cats
S4: немати ни кучета ни мачета ~ to have neither dogs nor cats
S5: бити сам као пас ~ to be alone like a dog
C: an empty life, complete isolation

6.2.21.
G: τον πέταξαν σαν το σκυλί ~ they threw him like a dog
R1: вешать всех собак на кого-либо ~ to hang all the dogs on somebody
R2: спускать собаку ~ to let the dog down
R3: за собакой палка не пропадёт (припомнит) ~ behind the dog a stick is not lost (doesn’t recall)
S: трпети као пас ~ to suffer like a dog
C: a person who always experiences injustice, especially because of the faults of others

6.2.22.
B1: избивам (изтрепвам) като кучета ~ to beat (bludgeone) like a dog
B2: пребия като куче някого ~ to assault somebody like a dog
B3: убивам (претрепвам) като куче ~ to kill like a dog
B4: влача се (ходя) като пребито куче ~ he drags himself (walks) like a beaten dog
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G₁: τον σκότωσαν σαν το σκυλί ~ they killed him like a dog
G₂: του φέρομαι σαν να είναι σκυλί ~ I treat him as if he were a dog
G₃: σαν δαρμένο σκυλί ~ like a beaten dog
S₁: ἵστητι (πρεβηττι) καὶ πεσα ~ to beat like a dog
S₂: ποστυπατι τον τον εις τον πομ ~ to deal with somebody like a dog
S₃: τρετιρατι και πεσα ~ to treat like a dog
S₄: ύβιτι την πεσα ~ to kill like a dog
C: violent treatment, inhumane behavior

6.2.23.
B₁: хвърлям като на куче някому ~ to throw to somebody like a dog
B₂: чакам като куче пред кашапница ~ to wait in front of a butcher’s shop like a dog

burst

G: δεμένος με λουρί σαν σκύλος ~ tied on a leash like a dog
S: διττί και πας κα τομπ ~ to be like a dog on a tether
C: the poor living conditions of an unfree man
6.2.25.
B₁: ходи като глухо куче ~ he walks like a deaf dog
B₂: ходя като куче без сайбия ~ to walk like a dog without a master
G: γυρίζω σαν αδέσποτο σκυλί ~ to wander like a stray dog
S: лутати (ландрати, скитати се) као [јалови] пас ~ to wander (roam, ramble) like a [sterile] dog
C: a situation without control
6.2.26.
B: мъчно е някому като на куче ~ to have compassion for somebody like a dog

the sleet

B₁: мигам (примигвам) като куче в лапавица ~ to blink (wink) like a dog in the sleet
B₂: мигам (примигвам, обърквам се) като куче във воденица ~ to blink (wink, stumble) like a dog in the mill
B₃: чудя се като куче в небрано лозе ~ to wonder like a dog in a non-harvesting vineyard
B₄: чудя се като куче в сливи ~ to wonder like a dog in a plum
B₅: обърквам се като куче на мост ~ to mess up like a dog on a bridge
G: σα διαρμένο σκυλί ~ like a beaten dog
C: to look confused, to be in an awkward situation
6.2.28.
B1: около нещо като куче [на сватба] за комад ~ about something like a dog [at the wedding] for a piece
B3: още не видял вълка, вика кучетата ~ although the dogs haven’t seen the wolf yet, they shout
B3: изплезих езика като бясно куче ~ he stuck his tongue out like a mad dog
G: фобуется сав то сквъли то боди ~ he is afraid of the ox like a dog
C: exceeding caution
6.2.29.
B1: наше куче ~ our dog
B2: който обича кучето, ще му търпи бълхите ~ he who loves a dog will tolerate its fleas
G: όποιος αγαπά το Γιάννη, αγαπά και το σκυλί του ~ he who loves John also loves his dog
C: a beloved person is tolerable in spite of his obvious defects
6.2.30.
B: давам слама на кучето, а кокални на мулето ~ to give straw to the dog and bones to the mule
G1: του σκύλου δίνει άχερα και του γαϊδάρου κόκαλα ~ he gives hay to the dog and bones to the donkey
G2: πουλούσε σκύλους και αγόραζε γάτους ~ he was selling dogs and buying cats
C: someone performs unreasonable actions that bring him into a difficult situation
6.2.31.
B1: намерил съм село без кучета ~ I found a village without dogs
B2: намерил съм стадо без кучета ~ I found a flock without dogs
G1: δε γνωρίζει το σκύλι τον αφέντη του ~ the dog doesn’t know its master
G2: χάνει το σκύλι τον αφέντη του ~ the dog loses its master
G3: μπάτε σκύλοι αλέστε και αλεστικά μη δίνετε ~ dogs get into, grind and don’t give money for the grinding
G4: αδέσποτο σκύλι, διάβολος στην αυλή ~ a stray dog is a devil in the courtyard
G5: αμολητό σκύλι όποιον βρει δαγκώνει ~ the unleashed dog bites anyone he finds
C: a situation without organization and control, large riots
6.2.32.
B1: има някого като глутнища кучета ~ they are like a group of dogs
B2: като в умряло куче червени ~ like worms in a dead dog
R1: как собак нерезаных ~ like uncut dogs
R2: собака не перепрянет ~ the dog won’t jump again
S: има их као кусих (кусатих) паса ~ they are like the tailless dogs
C: a large number, a crowd
6.2.33.
B1: той е голямо куче ~ it is a big dog
B2: вра се като червиво куче ~ to thrust myself like a wormy dog
В3: хътам като куче по чужди порти ~ to sag like a dog on unknown doors
R: как собака ~ like a dog
S: безобразен као пас ~ impudent like a dog
C: rude behavior, someone who doesn’t show due respect for another person
6.2.34.
B: лъжа като куче ~ to lie like a dog
R: собака летела, ворона на хвосту сидела ~ the dog flew, the crow sat on its tail
S1: лагати као пас ~ to lie like a dog
S2: лажљив као пас ~ he is a liar like a dog
C: a person who tells lies at all times, an inveterate liar
6.2.35.
B: куче с масло не ги яде ~ a dog doesn’t eat it even with butter
R: хоть собак вешай ~ even if you hang the dogs
S: ни пас с маслом (на маслу) ~ neither a dog [would eat it] with butter (in butter)
C: a repulsive thing, a disgusting challenge
6.2.36.
B1: кучешко време ~ the canine time
B2: и куче да вържеш няма да стои ~ even if you tie a dog it will not stand
R1: собаку встоячь заносит ~ he puts the dog in a standing position
R2: хороший хозяин в такую погоду и собаку на улицу не выгонит ~ in such weather the good master will not leave even the dog out in the street
C: extremely adverse weather conditions
6.2.37.
B: минава ми (заздравява ми) като на куче ~ I pass (I recover) like a dog
S: на псу рана, на псу и зарасла ~ the wound is on the dog, so on the dog is healed
C: a resistant reaction leads to a quick improvement without serious consequences
6.2.38.
B: ревнив като куче ~ jealous like a dog
S: љубоморан као пас ~ jealous like a dog
C: an overly jealous person
6.2.39.
G1: τιμούν τον σκύλο για χάρη του αφεντικού ~ they honor the dog for the sake of the master
G2: ό, τι δεν μπορεί να δαγκώσει το σκυλί, το γλείφει ~ the dog licks what it can’t bite
G3: όταν ο σκύλος έχει παράδες, τον φωνάζουν αφεντικό ~ when the dog has money, they call him boss
S: пузати као пас ~ to crawl like a dog
C: a person who tends to be servile
6.2.41.
G1: σκυλομούρης ~ the dog-faced
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G: η σκυλόφατσα ~ the dog-faced
S: ружан kao пас ~ as ugly as a dog
C: an extremely harsh looking person

6.2.42.
G: σαν διψασμένο σκυλί ~ like a thirsty dog
S: жедан kao пас 18 ~ as thirsty as a dog
C: great thirst

7. Conclusions
On the basis of the conducted detailed contrastive analysis concerning a large number (totally 259) of phraseological units with the semantic component ‘dog’ in the Bulgarian, Greek, Russian, and Serbian languages we become aware of their partial or complete desemantisation. Furthermore, since the idioms motivated according to the behavior manifestations or the symbolic background of the animals indicate concrete situations (‘he works like a dog’). On the other hand, due to the mutual polyhedral proximity noticed diachronically between the man and the dog the absurd motives transfer established human features to the animals (‘jealous like a dog’), especially those with a negative connotation.

However, in spite of the outlined similarities and the main differences these lexical structures are harmonically interspersed with the ethnological roots and the cultural inheritance of every nation.

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